

AGENDA  
REGULAR MEETING  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

Tuesday, March 19, 2019

C. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD

7. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Board Executive Committee (1/10/2019) (Waespi)

Present

Board: Dennis Waespi, Ayn Wieskamp, Ellen Corbett

Staff: Robert Doyle, Erica Fuerst, Brian Holt, Kristina Kelchner, Matt Graul, Chris Barton, Kip Walsh, Shivani Nath

Public: Director Beverly Lane, Abigail Fateman

Board Executive Committee Chair Dennis Waespi called the meeting to order at 10:09 am.

**I. Participation in San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority Integrated Permitting Effort**

Chief of Stewardship Matt Graul provided background on the Bay Restoration Regulatory Integration Team (BRRIT), which was created to streamline the permitting process for large restoration projects and other projects within and surrounding the San Francisco Bay. He discussed Measure AA projects and challenges, which led to an initiative to create pathways to improve permitting, resulting in BRRIT. Mr. Graul discussed the benefits of obtaining permits more quickly, especially cost-savings; the formation of the BRRIT which is made up of three Federal and three State agencies; the Policy and Management Team established to oversee the BRRIT; and how they will work together. The BRRIT would commit to one item from the Policy and Management Team's prioritized list each year, saving an estimated \$130,000.00 or more annually, with an expedited permitting process which would reduce expenditures related to inflation and increasing construction costs. Mr. Graul added that the Policy and Management Team could evaluate the BRRIT's performance every six months, and discussed various parks that have benefitted from Measure AA and are currently, or will be, in the application process.

**Recommendation: By motion of Director Ellen Corbett and seconded by Director Ayn Wieskamp, the Board Executive Committee voted 3-0 to recommend the establishment of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) with the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (Authority) to provide \$75,000.00 annually for five years to**

**support the implementation of the BRRIT to the full Board of Directors for favorable consideration.**

## **2. Vasco Hills/Byron Vernal Pools Preserve Management Plan**

Acting Assistant General Manager of ASD Kristina Kelchner, introduced the item, with Chief of Planning and GIS Brian Holt presenting. Mr. Holt provided a summary of the Vasco Hills/Byron Vernal Pools Preserve Management Plan, including conservation goals, and next steps for the Park District's land use planning in the area, including: data, agricultural infrastructure, recreation plans, species preservation, and land limitations. He specified that the Preserve Management Plan is complete, but pending agency approval per the Government Shutdown. He discussed the Park District's partnership with the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy (HCP)/NCCP, and their goals. Mr. Holt and East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy Executive Director Abigail Fateman explained that Vernal Pools are off-limits at this moment due to potential for trespassing, but according to Mr. Holt and Environmental Program Manager Chris Barton could open within the five-year review period. In response to Director Ellen Corbett inquiry about Restrictions of Use, Mr. Holt responded that they are dependent on a range of factors including habitat. Dogs are required to be on leash; otherwise the restrictions function the same as on other Park District trails, while Mr. Barton noted that the Habitat Conservation Plan areas have standardized restrictions. As part of further discussion Director Corbett asked whether there is a legal mechanism that supports restrictions, such as a deed restriction. Ms. Fateman responded that restrictions are recorded when property is acquired, and that both recreational uses and habitat needs are acknowledged. Mr. Holt stated that the Preserve Management Plans for Black Diamond Mines, and the Deer Valley Area will be done separately. A discussion regarding a Zero-Waste project followed.

**Recommendation: None. This was a discussion item.**

## **3. HR Report on Current Vacancies**

Chief Human Resources Officer Kip Walsh, presented this agenda item. Ms. Walsh discussed the Park District's vacancies, the process for filling vacancies, and progress that has been made within the Human Resources (HR) department. Last year, HR received 194 requests to fill vacant positions, and all but 38 positions were filled, as illustrated in a Committee Packet attachment; correspondingly, HR conducted 121 recruitments. Ms. Walsh expanded on the progress made in shortening the timeframe of the recruitment process and hiring within the HR department. Ms. Walsh explained the process of filling a vacant position, including the testing and interview process, for various positions. Director Ellen Corbett requested additional information on the pool list process. Ms. Walsh provided an overview of the Park Ranger recruitment and explained the process to fill Park Ranger positions. Director Corbett commented on workforce diversity within the Park District and suggested broadening the interest in positions. Director Corbett also suggested encouraging seasonal employees to apply for permanent positions. Director Ayn Wieskamp suggested reaching out to candidates who did not make it through the recruitment process. Director Dennis Waespi asked about recruitment participation at various professional conferences. Ms. Walsh responded that the Park District does participate, but that not all conferences align with particular vacancy or recruitment

timelines. A discussion regarding fire department vacancies, and apprenticeships followed. On a related note, Director Wieskamp suggested making a presentation on Fire Planning at a future Mayors' Conference.

**Recommendation: None. This was an informational item.**

**4. Open Forum for Public Comments**

None.

**5. Board Comments**

None.

**6. GM Comments**

Mr. Doyle informally suggested that the HR Vacancy Report go to the full board.

There being no further business, President Dennis Waespi declared the meeting adjourned at 12:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Erica L. Fuerst